

Amendments to the Claims

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application.

Listing of claims:

Please cancel original claims 1-18 and substitute the following claims 19-31 in lieu thereof.

Original claims 1-18 (canceled without prejudice or disclaimer)

Claim 19. (new) A method for the regeneration of denox catalysts with an elevated SO_2/SO_3 conversion rate by the accumulation of iron compounds, comprising the steps of treating the denox catalyst with a substantially aqueous acidic solution with an addition of at least one antioxidant, wherein inorganic or organic acids are used as acid which are selected from the group consisting of H_2SO_4 , HCl , H_3PO_4 , HNO_3 , oxalic acid, citric acid, malonic acid, formic acid, chloroacetic acids, benzole sulfonic acid or mixtures of these acids, and wherein the at least one antioxidant is selected from the group consisting of substituted phenols, hydroquinones, catechols, and/or aliphatic, araliphatic or aromatic mercapto compounds, dithiocarbonates, hydroxycarboxylic acids, enediols and/or phosphites and phosphonates, including salts, esters and metal complexes, under such conditions that regeneration of the denox catalysts is effected.

Claim 20. (new) The method according to Claim 19, characterized in that the aqueous acidic solution has a pH of 0.5 to 4.0.

Claim 21. (new) The method according to Claim 19, characterized in that ascorbic acid and/or isoascorbic acid is/are used.

Claim 22. (new) The method according to Claim 19, characterized in that anionic, cationic, amphoteric, non-ionic or zwitterionic surfactants are additionally used.

Claim 23. (new) The method according to Claim 19, characterized in that the antioxidant content is 0.2 to 2.0 wt.%.

Claim 23. (new) The method according to Claim 19, characterized in that the treatment takes place in the reaction solution consisting of acid and antioxidants at temperatures from the ambient temperature to 100°C.

Claim 24. (new) The method according to Claim 19, which comprises the further step of moving the catalyst in the reaction solution during the exposure time and/or maintaining the reaction solution in movement.

Claim 25. (new) The method according to Claim 24, characterized in that the catalyst is moved by lifting and/or the reaction solution is maintained in movement by agitation or recirculation.

Claim 26. (new) The method according to Claim 19, which further comprises the step of treating the catalyst with an ultrasonic treatment or treating the catalyst with low-frequency oscillations in the reaction solution.

Claim 27. (new) The method according to Claim 26, wherein a low-frequency oscillation in a range from approximately 20 to 1000 Hz or ultrasound in a range from 10,000 to 100,000 Hz is used.

Claim 28. (new) The method according to Claim 26, wherein the primary treatment with reaction solution and the ultrasonic treatment are carried out successively in separate basins.

Claim 29. (new) The method according to Claim 19, which comprises the further step of subjecting the catalyst to a mechanical pretreatment so as to remove fine dust and/or subjecting the catalyst to a pretreatment with water.

Claim 30. (new) The method according to Claim 19, which comprises the further step after the treatment with reaction solution of washing the catalyst with water and drying the catalyst.

Claim 31. (new) The method according to Claim 30, which comprises the further step after drying of re-impregnating the activator elements with water-soluble compounds.